

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS
PASS AID FOR BIRNBAUM, PPC

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: OECD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PRESIDENCY

REF: STATE 36497

1. OECD COUNCIL FEBRUARY 28 EXTENDED TERM OF DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PRESIDENT PAUL-MARC HENRY, SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE FEBRUARY 28, FOR ONE MONTH THROUGH MARCH 31. PURPOSE OF EXTENSION, REQUESTED BY SECGEN VAN LENNEP, WAS TO PROVIDE CONTINUED LEADERSHIP PENDING APPROVAL OF NEW PRESIDENT.

2. VAN LENNEP LETTER TO HEADS OF DEL HAS RECOMMENDED CANADIAN CANDIDATE SABOURIN TO SUCCEED HENRY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETING, SECGEN SAID COUNCIL SOON WILL BE CALLED UPON TO ACT ON HIS RECOMMENDATION OF SABOURIN AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR DECISION. HE SAID IT WAS DOUBTFUL HENRY COULD EXTEND MUCH MORE THAN ONE MONTH BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PLANS.

3. DESPITE SECGEN'S RECOMMENDATION, DELEGATIONS REMAIN DIVIDED. FIVE HAVE DECLARED SUPPORT FOR U.K. CANDIDATE LITTLE (U.K., U.S., IT ALY, AUSTRALIA, DENMARK); FIVE

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FOR NORWEGIAN CANDIDATE FAALAND (NORWAY, SWEDEN, FINLAND, ICELAND, NETHERLANDS); AND TWO EACH FOR FRENCH CANDIDATE URI (FRANCE, GREECE), BELGIAN CANDIDATE VAN BILSEN (BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG), AND CANADIAN SABOURIN (CANADA, JAPAN). EIGHT REMAIN UNCOMMITTED. SECRETARIAT CONTINUES INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AND VARIOUS DELS ARE LOBBYING ACTIVELY.

4. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, U.S. IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMED ITS SUPPORT OF U.K.'S LITTLE TO SECGEN AND OTHER DELEGATIONS, GIVING REASONS STATED IN THAT TELEGRAM. SECGEN CONTINUES TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT LITTLE IS THE WRONG CANDIDATE AND SABOURIN THE RIGHT ONE FOR REASONS STATED IN OUR OECD PARIS 3842.

5. COUNCIL DISCUSSION FEBRUARY 28 ON ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF HENRY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES DID NOT EXPAND INTO DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED HENRY.

TURNER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O.

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